

December 4 , 1956

Dear Abe:

I noticed your abstract in GENETICS on effects of versene/ on sexual fertility in E. coli. We would like to use your finding, if you are agreeable to letting us have a more detailed protocol, as a possible improvement in our own technique. We don't want to "butt in" on your own possible further analysis, and hope you will be following this up--do let us hear from you.

Inter alii, we've been trying to confirm Hirota's claim that Co^{++} induces F^- mutants from F^+ (Nature, July 14) but so far it isn't going so well. Dave Skaar, Alan Richter and I just finished an analysis on the effect of motility selection: this appears to be a competitive advantage on the part of spontaneous F^- mutants over the F^+ background,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics